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Records of Fort St George

SUNDRY BOOK

OF

1686

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AFFAIRS IN BENGAL

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PREFATORY NOTE.

The following pages contain an exact reproduction in print of Public Sundry Book, Volume No. 2, and relate to the Proceedings of a Committee in regard to the affairs in Bengal between July and November 1686.

The original manuscript volume is in a fair state of preservation.

H. DODWELL
Curator, Madras Record Office.

8th December 1913.

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RECORDS OF FORT ST. GEORGE.

SUNDRY BOOK

OF

1686.

Proceedings of a Committee in regard to Affairs in Bengal 1686.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE JULY 1686.*——

ATT A CONSULTATION

Present

WILLIAM GYFFORD ESQR PRESIDENT & GOVERNR
MR ELIHU YALE MR THOMAS LUCAS
CAPTN JOHN NICHOLSON.

Agreed, that the Letter of Secrecy bee not published to the rest of the Councill, onely to Capt. Nicholson, who is appointed of this Councill, & acquainted with the whole affair, till the ship Beaufort bee dispatch'd, And that all things relateing to that concerne bee kept as private as possible, but there being many things which require public action, tis feared it cannot bee kept So private as is desired. 10TH.

The Generall Letter of Secrecy to the ffort, & Instructions to the Agent at Bengall being now read, It is Resolved, that all possible expedition bee used in the unladeing the Beaufort, & dispatching her to Bengall and that before her departure, Mr Lucas doe goe aboard and Surveigh the quantity of water etc Shee carrys down.

That the Sloop Madapollam, & Sloop Mary doe accompany the Beaufort, & in regard that all our other Sloops are employed, some at Priamand, & the Sloop James being laid up at Ennore, without possibility of getting her out this Season, it is ordered that two Country ships bee entertained to serve in this Expedition, and that the new Sloop Speedwell, lately built at Madapollam, & which lyes laden with that ffactory-Goods at the Barr's mouth, bee dispatchd to Bengall as soon [*a few words lost*] discharged her Ladeing in this place.

There being many of our English Soldiers sent to Priama[nd] [*a few words lost*] and there not remaining above thirty private [*a few words lost.*] It is ordered that two Companies of Portug[uese] & [*a few words lost*] Soldiers bee entertained for [this] service, and English Officers bee sent down to instruct them, and Captain William Richardson, & Captn: James Lesly, being experienced men, bee the persons for it.

[10TH.] ——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1686.*——

The Rt Honble Compa expecting that wee should furnish the ffleet with an Engineer & with Tools & Materialls for the Assault, & raiseing a ffortification, Gunner ffowles being dead, & haveing none capable for that employment, it is to bee recommended to the Commanders, & the Agent &ca in Bengall to supply that want.

And whereas the ffriendship & Assistance of the King of Arracan is very necessary in this affair, and it being very difficult, or not att all attainable at this Season, from Bengall thither, & wee haveing great Invitations & Respects from him lately by a Ship of this place, comeing from thence, it is thought most convenient that a Country Ship called the Ormus Merchant, bee dispatch'd thither directly from hence, with Letters & a Present from the Governor, to engage his assistance, & it being absolutely necessary, that wee should have some other place of Recruit and Rendesvouz for our ships & men in case of a failure at Arraccan, and Point Negrais being greatly recommended to us for a very fertile Island, plentifull of all Sorts of Provisions, and an excellent Harbour for the greatest ships att all Seasons, with great quantity of excellent Timber for building or fitting of Ships, and as capable of emprovement for all Sorts of Commodities & Manufactures which Bengall affords, upon these and other great Considerations, which hereafter wee sball bee more particular in, It is ordered, that the Pinke John & Mary (shee being upon a Survey thought alltogether unfitt for an Europe Voyage) bee sent as soon as possible to sd Negrais, to take possession of the place, and make provision, for the Ships.

[WILLIAM GYFFORD.]
[ELIHU YALE.]
THO^{S} LUCAS.
JOHN NICHOLSON.

ATT A CONSULTATION

Present

17TH. WILLIAM GYFFORD ESQR PRESIDENT & GOVERNR
MR ELIHU YALE MR THOMAS LUCAS
CAPTN JOHN NICHOLSON.

The Rt Honble Compa haveing ordered us in their Generall Letter to us, as well as in Their Orders to Their Generall at Surat, to make Reprizeull of any Ships, or other concernes, belonging to the King of Siam, for wrongs and Injuries done them by Constant Phaulkon, and Captn John Nicholson (one of this Councill) haveing his Majties and the Rt Honble Compas Commission for it, which hee is very willing and ready to execute, It is thought convenient, that hee look into Metchlepatam and Vizagapatam Roads, as hee goes along the Coast, because possibly some of said King's Ships may not bee yett departed.

[*a few words lost*] being a Shipp arrived here from Persia [*a few words lost*] Surat, whereof Captain William Hilder [*a few words lost*] and bound for Bengalla, It is agreed, that shee [*a word lost*] not depart hence before the Beaufort, and that shee bee [made] use of, to embarque some of the Soldiers for Bengalla.

WILLIAM GYFFORD.
ELIHU YALE.
THO^{S} LUCAS.
JOHN NICHOLSON.

ATT A CONSULTATION

Present

30TH. WILLIAM GYFFORD ESQR PRESIDENT & GOVERNR
MR ELIHU YALE MR THOMAS LUCAS
CAPTN JOHN NICHOLSON.

1. Doubting the Agent & Councill in Bengall may by force bee detained aloft, or may find Some evasions of themselves to continue there, It is agreed, that wee

[30TH.]

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1686.*——

proceed, however, to the Seizeing upon Chittagam, and that some Persons of the Councill here, & others, bee sent down to supply their Vacancy, besides takeing in at Ballasore Such persons as may bee thought fitt for that purpose, and that Orders & Instructions bee drawn up accordingly.

Agreed allso, that in case the Agent &c^{a} shall come down to supply those Stations appointed them, that then sd Persons sent hence proceed upon some Vessell to Arraccan, to treat & establish a ffriendship with that King & to dispatch the Vessell with Provisions to Capt^{n} Nicholson et^{a} & they to come hither upon the Ormus.

[WILLIAM GYFFORD.]
[ELIHU YALE.]
TH^{OS} LUCAS.
JOHN NICHOLSON.

ATT A CONSULTATION

Present

WILLIAM GYFFORD ESQ^{R} PRESIDENT & GOVERNOR
M^{R} ELIHU YALE M^{R} THOMAS LUCAS
CAPT^{N} JOHN NICHOLSON.

AUGUST THE 2D.

Resolved, that M^{r} Robert ffreeman, and M^{r} Nathaniel Higginson, of this Councill, doe go down upon the Beaufort upon the prementioned affair, who being sent for, & acquainted there with, accept thereof, being well satisfyed therewith.

[WILLIAM GYFFORD.]
[ELIHU YALE.]
THOMAS LUCAS.
JOHN NICHOLSON.

ATT A CONSULTATION

Present

WILLIAM GYFFORD ESQ^{R} PRESIDENT & GOVERN^{R}
M^{R} ELIHU YALE M^{R} THOMAS LUCAS
CAPT^{N} JOHN NICHOLSON.

In regard that the Dutch Governor &c^{a} Council from Polliacat has sent us a Declaration of the Causes of the Warr between them & the King of Golcondah, & that they had taken Possession of Metchlepatam, forbidding us therefore in a manner all Trade, It is thought convenient that M^{r} Freeman repair thither, to take care of the R^{t} Hon^{ble} Comp^{as} Concerns there, And for that Agent Charnock, by a particular Letter, advises hee has received Intimation of the R^{t} Hon^{ble} Comp^{as} design, & was makeing Preparation, It is resolved that M^{r} Freeman proceed not to Bengall, as before agreed, but that wee direct the Agent et^{a} to follow the R^{t} Hon^{ble} Comp^{as} Orders in reference to our Warr with them, as near as they can.

Agreed, that Capt^{n} Nicholson doe now touch at Metchlepatam, in his way to Bengall, to land the R^{t} Hon^{ble}. Comp^{as}. Goods & Treasure & that the Sloop Madapollam goe to Vizagapatam, to carry from thence Provisions for the ffleet.

[W^{M}. GYFFORD.]
[ELIHU YALE]
[THO^{S} LUCAS.]
[JOHN NICHOLSON .

[12TH.] ——*FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1686.*——

A Generall to Agent Charnock, dated 12th Inst. and Captn Nicholson's Dispatch & Instructions were read passed & Signed [*a few words lost*] of follow Vizt.

FORT ST GEORGE 12TH AUGT 1686.

[TO THE RT.] WORPLL JOB CHARNOCK ESQR
[AGENT FOR] THE RT HONBLE COMPAS AFFAIRS.
ATT HUGLY.

When you have perused the Rt Honble Compas Orders to you concerning the present Expedition of an intended Warr with the great Mogul, in all his Territories & particularly in Bengall & Orixa (in case you are not come to Such an Agreement with them before the arriveall of the Beaufort as the Rt Honble Compa have now directed) you are Speedily to execute their commands in the same as directed in their Said Orders, which you will have a further opportunity to consider of with Capt. John Nicholson, when hee arrives in the Bay for which purpose wee would have yourself & Council to meet him whereever hee shall appoint between the entrance into the River of Hugly, & the Braces, & when yourself & the most considerable of your sd Councill, are there, and that there is no agreement made by that time between us & the Natives, then you are to doe them all the injury you can, & not (by reason of, or in hopes of the [success] of any further Treaty) to deferr one Moment the Surprizeing of [*a few words lost*] in the same manner as the Rt Honble Compa have directed [*a few words lost*] there will not upon due summons deliver the [*a few words lost*] & Territories thereunto belonging, & whether you [*a few words lost*] or Surrender it must bee strongly fortifyed and kept [*a few words lost*] Honble Compas use, notwithstanding any other Treaty of [*a few words lost*] for the Reasons given you in their Hons. Instructions.

'Tis true they say, that after you have awaited the Nabob his Answer to what they have wrote him, or treated with Commissions from him & cannot & are not agreed, that then upon the arrivall of the Beaufort, you are to proceed in the warr as afores, provided yourself & the most considerable of the Councill are aboard, which wee confesse may bee conjectured, that nothing is to bee done till then, but wee can't Suppose by that, that the Rt Honble Compa would run the hazard of looseing the Oportunity of the Monsoon to doe this work in, or that by any Agreement, that can bee made before, they would not yet expect Satisfaction for the great Charge they have been at in sending out so great a ffleet, & likewise for the many Sums of Money they have for this many years most unjustly extorted from us, besides, if there bee any Agreement made it must bee considered whether they have granted what we have petitioned the Mogul for by our Vakeil, for unlesse they have done that, & given us a Redresse for all our aggrieveances (which wee have represented to him by our sd Vakeil). Wee are of opinion that a bare Phirmand, now, to bee Custom free will not bee sufficient, especially if wee have not allso the Nabobs own Phirwanna. Hee being so powerfull, that hee may (if hee pleases) refuse to obey the Kings Phirmand, as many times hee has done, And as wee cant suppose that the Rt. Honble. Compa. have any other meaning in part of them aboves Orders, then what wee have humbly presumed to interpret, So neither can wee imagine that though you should not bee permitted to come downe to Captn Nicholson, that therefore the Rt Honble Compa would bee willing to lett fall this Honorble Designe, (now they have beene at so much Charge & Trouble about it) Wee say wee cannot thinke it, for if you can't come (not being permitted by the Governmt then wee have reason to prosecute the Warr more vigorously, & in such case Capt. Nicholson may write the Nabob, that if hee doe any of you the least wrong, that hee will revenge it a thousand fold upon their People. Neither doe wee beleive that it will bee a Sufficient reason to desist from makeing Warr, upon the Score of any slight agreement you may have made, but that unlesse the Mogull has granted to us all those things beforementioned, and petitioned for by our Vakeel, and paid the 600,000 ll. which the Rt Honble Compa demands, or make over to us the Inheritance of Chittegam &ca. you ought to proceed therein, This wee Say is our opinions (being ordered to promote the design what wee can) But the Allmighty direct you to act for the best.

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1686.*——— [12TH]

Wee hope the Rochester may have been arrived in the Bay before the Beaufort, & that yourself &c[a] Councill are now aboard her, & come to some Resolution about this great affair (You haveing had long since private Notice to prepare for it by Letters from hence, to which you have returned such answer, as gives us hopes of your readynes therein) But after the Beaufort's arriveall into Ballasore Road, thô the Rochester should not bee there, or that you should not bee able to come down, Wee can't think, but that it would bee convenient to order Capt Nicholson to proceed to the Seizeing of Chittagam as Speedily as you can (& likewise to order all the Fleet, both Soldiers & Seamen to bee obedient to him et[a] Councill of Officers) if they refuse to deliver it to you upon Summons, annoying them what you can continually both by sea & Land, which if the Allmighty gives you Succes in, then you may capitulate with them afterwards upon such Termes as the R[t] Hon[ble] Comp[a] themselves have directed you in, & as the President & Councill in the Bay have thought fitt in their Consultation of the 12[th] Novemb[r] 1684 Should be insisted upon in case wee should have the power on our side, for wee have often experienced the delatorines of the Nabob, and that nothing can bee done but with the sword in our hands, Therefore no opportunity should bee lost to put us into Such a Capacity, which the R[t] Hon[ble] Comp[a] are so fearfull should bee omitted, that they have ordered no time should bee neglected, if the Beaufort should not arrive in due season, but to proceed upon the buisines with what force you have after the Rochester's arriveall, and then the Nabob may thank himself, that hee has (after so many applications to him) deferred doeing us Justice So long.

If you can't have an opportunity to speak with Capt. Nicholson, then you must send him all the R[t] Hon[ble] Comp[a] Instructions about this affair (that hee may erre in nothing of their Comands but act in all things as directed by them if hee can) and appoint (in your absence for the reasons afores[d]) some trusty persons (that may bee come down or in Ballasore) in the quality of those Commands as the R[t] Hon[ble] Comp[a] have themselves appointed, ffor which purpose wee had once resolved to send M[r] Robert Freeman and M[r] Higginson (who are now of our Councill) but that the Dutch having taken possession of Metchlepatam, wee were forced to send M[r] Freeman thither to take care of the R[t] Hon[ble] Comp[as] concernes.

But because it would bee more agreeable to the R[t] Hon[ble] Comp[as] Orders to have your Self & Councill to exercise those Offices, wee would have you (if it should so fall out that you are hindred from comeing down as before ordered) to contrive some way or other with Captain Nicholson to gett out of their hands by force, & if possible allso to bring away with you the Governor of Hugly (that Rogue who was the occasion of our troubles at Hugly, and of Agent Beard's death) Also Muttradas & Ramjebbon, or any other of the R[t] Hon[ble] Comp[as] Merchants that are suspected to have been the cause of all our Troubles in the Bay, & have done so much wrong to the R[t] Hon[ble] Comp[a] in keeping such a Correspondency with the severall Governors, that have every year given you so much Molestation till the Season for Investm[ts] were allmost spent, that you have been allwaies forced to give them their own rates for their Goods, for which very end those Villaines never failed to cause trouble enough

If you have occasion, you are by the R[t] Hon[ble] Comp[as] order to us to entertain all Europeans, and Musteezes that proffer themselves to serve them, & when you have done with our Souldiers sent from hence, you are to returne them to us, and you must take care to preserve for the R[t] Hon[ble] Comp[a] all the plunder taken of the natives, & for any that have deserved well, there's care taken to reward them otherwaies, & if any Slain their Widows & Orphans are to bee considered, And Capt. Nicholson has order to receive one tenth of the plunder for his Maj[ts] use.

When it shall please God, that you have possession of Chittagam, great care must bee taken for the preservation of the Souldiers' healths, and as well for that, as the Security of the place, they are order'd all, both Officers & Souldiers to ly

———*FORT S^T. GEORGE, AUGUST 1686.*———

[12TH] within the Fortification, in Hutts made for that purpose, according to the present Custom in Europe. Capt^n John Nicholson is to take his place of third of Councill in the Bay.

If the Warr should continue, you must however remember to doe what possibly you can to supply us with Rice for the ffort, and Saltpetre for the Quintelage of Shipping, And pray remember, when you can spare any Ships to looke out for purchase, that at Acheen you may, most probably, meet with Some, and lying in the Malacca Straight's mouth about the beginning of the moneth of ffebruary you may happily meet with Some Surat Shipp or other belonging to the Mogull from Manilha.

The Sloop Madapollam wee have ordered to Vizagapatam to lade Rice et^a Provisions for the use of the ffleet, fearing there may bee some difficulty to gett any from Shoar, if the breach should bee begun before the Beaufort arrives.

When you can spare any of the Ships in the ffleet, lett them come up along this Coast, & the other side about Tenasseree, cruiseing it on both Sides, to see if they can meet with any of the King of Siam's Ships, which they are by the R Hon^ble Comp^as orders to Seize upon, giveing the Commander a Receipt for the Shipp and Goods, & Send a Coppy of sd acco^t to us, to bee remitted to Surat, that the King of Siam may have due Credit there for the same (as for what else may bee so Seized upon) till the R^t Hon^ble Comp^a are satisfyed the full of their demands upon sd King, And as for what Englishmen are found upon his Ships, order our Comanders to receive into the R^t Hon^ble Comp^as Service, giveing them encouragement for the same.

Concerning your treating with the King of Arraccan (as the R^t Hon^ble Comp^a have ordered) it may bee of great advantage to the design in hand, therefore pray omitt not to send one Ship or other, with fitting persons & Presents upon her, for that purpose, giveing them the necessary Instructions, and wee shall allso promote it, as much as wee can, from hence, by a Countrey Ship wee are sending with a Letter & Presents from us on this affair.

Negrais is a very convenient place (if there bee occasion) to repair our Ships in, & great Store of Refreshment may bee had there, which wee mention, that you may have it under your consideration, and wee are about to endeavor a Settlem^t there, for that purpose, & future emprovements.

This Warr with Bengall will concern you much to promote, it being partly thrô your particular encouragement that gave the occasion of so great a preparation at such a vast charge, which you must therefore well weigh, & permit no particular considerations to impeed it.

Wee should willingly have sent you more sloops, but that wee have them not with us, The Rochester, and William are gone to the West Coast, the James is laid up in Enore River, and can't gett out for want of Water, the Speedwel & Thomas & Gingerlee were all laden with Goods from the Northward, & comeing hither but unhappily putt back; if they come to us in time (being ordered to use their endeavors) wee shall send them to you, but at present wee can onely send the Madapollam & Mary, which are ordered to goe with the Beaufort, onely the Madapollam is gone a little before to Vizagapatam, wee should also have sent you one or two of the Countrey Ships, but they are abroad, except one, that must of necessity bee repaired before shee can goe upon any Voyage, and Wee can't meet with any other at present, But there is Capt. Hilder, that belongs to Surat (if there bee occasion) wee beleive will bee very ready to Serve the R^t Hon^ble Comp^a.

There is great want of Armes & Amunition for the Souldiers (because those the R^t Hon^ble Comp^a intended by the Beaufort, were left behind, though wee have supplyed them with what wee have, & can possibly Spare from this Garrison, and if those intended from England doe come upon the latter ships, they shall bee sent down to you.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1686.*—— [12TH.]

Pray bee frequent & Speedy in your Advices to us, as often as occasion offers, in anything of import, And the Allmighty give you Successe in all your undertakeings, Soe wee remain

Your Affect^t^ friends

WILLIAM GYFFORD.
ELIHU YALE.
THOMAS LUCAS.
JOHN NICHOLSON.

To CAPT^N^ JOHN NICHOLSON
COMAND^R.^ OF THE SHIP BEAUFORT. [16TH.]

Wee have made what possible Expedition wee could to dispatch you from hence, with respect to your further designe, but you well know how many necessary matters wee had first to accommodate, besides the time that was required to unlade your ship, But now haveing finish'd all, you are immediately upon receipt of these to repair aboard your sd Ship, and the first opportunity of wind & weather presenting, to weigh anchor & sett sail, bending your Course for the speediest attaining of the Road of Ballasore, onely in your way to touch at Metchlepatam, and deliver what Goods & Treasure wee have now laden upon your Ship for sd place & Madapollam, to M^r^ Robert Freeman Cheif &c^a^ Councill there resident, which buisines pray dispatch with all Speed and from thence sail to Vizagapatam to see if there bee any Ship there belonging to the King of Siam, which if there bee you must Seize upon her, giveing the Commander a Receipt for the Ship, and what you find upon her, and send us a Coppy of sd Acco^t^ which wee shall remitt to Surat according to the R^t^ Hon^ble^ Comp^as^ order, that the King of Siam may have due Creditt for the same, as for what else may bee so Seized upon till the R^t^ Hon^ble^ Comp^a^ are Satisfyed the full of their demands upon that King, & as for what English men you may find upon the sd King's Ships carry them along with you into the Bay to serve the R^t^ Hon^ble^ Comp^a^ in their occasions there, and give them encouragement for the Same according to your Instructions from the R^t^ Hon^ble^ Comp^a^. But if it bee true (as wee hear) that Capt^n^ Inglish has killed a man you may secure him well & send him to us as a Criminall & when you have done at Vizagapatam (makeing no more stay there then is absolutely necessary) then proceed to the Road of Ballasore as afores^d^ and when it shall please God to arrive you in Safety there, you are to follow the Orders of the Agent et^a^ Councill at Hugly, & in the mean time till you shall receive sd Orders, wee would have you write as speedily as may bee, a particular Letter to Agent Charnock himself, acquainting him that you have some private Letters directed to himself, both from the R^t^ Hon^ble^ Comp^a^ & ourselves, of great Import, as allso others to himself & Councill, which when perused you have much to discourse him about the contents thereof, and that hee may receive them with Privacy, & both of you have an oportunity to meet together, wee would have you appoint him a certain place for him et^a^ Councill to come to you, some where or other between the Entrance into the River of Hugly, & the Braces, where wee desire you to goe in one of the new ffrigatts attended by some or other of our Sloops, with as many Seamen & Souldiers as well arm'd (upon both) as you shall think convenient for your Safety to retreat when you please, but in the meantime be sure to doe no injury to any of the Natives, and of your desired meeting wee have given the Agent Notice, but referr it to your self to appoint the most convenient place as above said, and if it Should so fall out, that the Agent et^a^ should not bee permitted (by the Government) to come down, then wee would have you contrive some way or other to gett them out of their hands by force which wee have allso advised the Agent to correspond with you about, But if by no means you can gett them to you, then you must write the Nabob, and the Government of Hugly, a very sharp & threatening Letter, (without any respect to Complement) that if they do any of them the least wrong, either in their persons or Estates, that you will revenge it a thousand fold upon their people, and that you was sent hither with a great force from his Maj^ie^ the King of England for that very purpose, and wee have further wrote to the [Agent ?] &c^a^ to give you orders how to act in case there should bee an impossibility of their comeing to you.

[16TH.] —— *FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1686.* ——

So soon as you come into Ballasore Road, you must immediately take care (before they have any Suspicion upon what acco^{t} you come) to gett what Arrack et^{a} Provisions and Water you can from the Shoar.

When you have receed the Agents et^{a} Councill's Orders, & that you are going upon any Expedition, you must at all times call a Councill of Officers, and wee doe hereby require all persons whatsoever in the ffleet, whether Seamen Soldiers or others to be obedient to your Orders.

In case of necessity to promote the designe you are upon, Wee doe order you to make use of any thing of the R^{t} Hon^{ble} Comp^{as} aboard you, either Goods, Stores, or Treasure, giveing us, or the Agent et^{a} Councill in Bengall an acco^{t} of the Expence of them, and you may allso make use of any of your own Stores & Provisions in their Service, and you shall bee allowed for them, because wee would in all things promote their Hon^{rs} design on this present Expedition, & as wee doubt not but that you will avoid all unnecessary Expences, So wee hope, that you will lett nothing bee wanting to your power.

It is a great trouble to us that wee have lost so many Soldiers upon the Nathaniel, and wee should have supplyed that want from hence if wee could, but wee have sent (as you know) all wee could gett, & would have you allso entertain all Europeans Musteezes & Topazes & Lascars & Pariars procureable, as you find occasion.

In case the Agent et^{a} Councill can^{r}t come down to you, wee have ordered him to appoint what other ffactors hee can from Ballasore, or elce where to supply their places, but if hee should not bee able to doe that neither, then you must endeavor to gett them, that in case you should proceed to the takeing possesion of Chittagam, the Superior Officers may bee of the R^{t} Hon^{ble} Comp^{as} Servants that are Merchants, and Supply the want of Souldiers by the Seamen in the ffleet, and the fifty Lascars & Pariar Peons which wee now send upon your Ship, may bee divided on our Ships & Sloops, as you find occasion, or may serve with some English among them for the Outguards when you have taken Chittagam.

You must by all means endeavor to Secure the ffleet from the storme, if you proceed not to Chittagam before the Monsoon bee over, and wee know of no better place then Kedgaree, where your men may bee refreshed, and if you use not the poor innocent Natives ill, no doubt but you will bee Supplied with all manner of provisions from all parts besides what you will find upon the place.

Concerning the Diamond Frigatt, wee know of no manner of Orders from the R^{t} Hon^{ble} Comp^{a} about her, But you tell us, shee belongs to their Hon^{rs}, therefore pray see that shee be Supplyed with all manner of Stores & Provisions that shee may want, and the Seamen entertained, at some certain Wages, and it shall bee allowed you, by the Agent &c^{a} Councill in the Bay, to whom wee have wrote about it.

Your prudent management of the Affair you are now upon will bee an Hon^{r} to our Royall King, Countrey & the R^{t} Hon$^{b.e}$ East India Comp^{a} and a great reputation to yourself, Soe wee wish you a prosperous Voyage & good Successe Dateing these presents in Fort S^{t} George this 16th day of August one thousand Six hundred eighty & Six according to the Computation of the Church of England.

WILLIAM GYFFORD.
ELIHU YALE.
THOMAS LUCAS.

Capt^{n} Nicholson, haveing receed. his Dispatch & Instructions, dated this day went aboard his ship Beaufort, beforenoon and Sett sail, but M^{r} Freeman & others attempting to goe off soon after, the Surfe ran so high, that the Mussula fill'd, & they were in danger of being drowned, but they gott safe ashore, & not dareing to putt off againe that day (the surfe continuing high) the Beaufort came to anchor.

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1686.*———

In the morning Mr Freeman &ca went aboard the Beaufort, whereupon shee sett sail, & proceeded for Metchlepatam, accompanyed by the Diamond Frigatt Capt. Woodcock Commandr and the Sloop Mary Bullocke Master.

A Generall to Sr John Child, Generall of Surat dat. this day, approved Signed & Sent by Patamar, to give him notice of the intended Warr in Bengall, that hee may make preparations accordingly, Coppy whereof follows. Vizt. [19TH]

FORT ST GEORGE, 19TH AUGUST 1686.

TO HIS EXELCY SR JOHN CHILD BARONET GENERAL
OF ALL THE ENGLISH FORCES ATT SEA & LAND IN THE NORTH PARTS OF INDIA &
PRESIDENT OF THE Rt HONBLE COMPAS AFFAIRS AT SURAT.

Wee have perused the Coppy of your Exelcys Letter to the Bay, the consideration whereof is not now left to Us, but the Rt Honble Compa have given positive Orders by the Rochester (which is gone before) that if they are not or cannot come to an agreement before the Beaufort arrives, that then they should not by reason of, or in hopes of the Successe of any Treaty to deferr one Moment the sending of their Force to Surprize the Fort of Chittagam, of which possibly you may have notice before now by the two Ships, Charles the 2d & the Modena, appointed for your Parts, which were allmost ready to come forth when our ships came away. The Preparation from England for this Warr with the Mogull is very great in all respects. You see by our Generall to yor Excellcy &ca Councill what ships are gone, & to goe thither, to which are to bee joined the Priaman shipps, and wee being ordered to promote their designe what wee could have sent down Souldiers Arms, Amunition & Provisions (with our best advices & Directions (as to some different Circumstances) in prosecution of sd Orders, adding what else necessary for the promoteing the main design according to order) and wee beleive there will bee now near a compleat Regiment with all their appointed Officers, so that if Chittagam bee not delivered to us upon Contract, or that they doe not pay us for Damages 600,000 £, there will certainly a Warr ensue, without any more delatory Capitulations, However it cannot bee amisse that your Excellcy (haveing this notice from us, or before from the Rt Honble Compa themselves) doe secure yourself & the rest of their Servants (as many as you can) so soon as possibly may bee in your Fort at Bombay, & send thither what can bee got together of our Rt Honble Masters Estate & your own, & your prudence will not want one contriveance or other to avoid the least Suspicion of a Warr in your Removeall thither, and wee are of opinion, & think it alltogether adviseable, that you act (but privately) in all things, as though you had certain News of the Warr begun (for fear of the worst) though they are ordered to send you immediate Advices from the Bay of all their Proceedings especially as to peace or Warr, when they are come to any Resolution about it, And if there should bee Warr, wee hope you will have ships time enough from England to surprize their India and Mocho ffleet, if not you cannot fail of meeting with their ffleet from Persia & Bussora, as allso their shipps from Manilha, Siam Acheen, Quedah, & other parts of the south Seas, for wee doubt not but the Rt Honble Compa would have this in their consideration from your own Advices to us of the 21st December 1684. Coppy whereof wee presume your Excellcy. sent home, and the same went from us by the Beaufort, that their Honrs might bee acquainted with all opportunityes to reprize themselves, and order their supplyes accordingly in time.

When ever the Warr breaks out in Bengall, wee are afraid the Nabobs advices to Surat may bee speedier then ours, or they may give them an accot beforehand of their suspicion thereof, and so they may surprize you, & secure you till they hear the certainty thereof to prevent which wee are of opinion that the sooner you gett aboard our ships the better, and there your Excellcy &ca [*a word or two lost*] with security (upon one pretence or other) untill you receive Advices from Bengall what they have done, but wee presume the Rt Honble Compa themselves have given your Excellcy full directions what to doe under most circumstances, and that your better knowledge

[19TH] ——*FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1686.*——

thereof in what they could not foresee will cause you to act as they may occasionally require, for the security of your own lives, and theirs; and your own Estates, and so wee need say no more concerning this but heartily wish you good Successe in all your endeavors for your own Security.

Wee desire with all our hearts that there may bee a good accommodation of all our differences in the Bay, but wee must needes again repeat it, wee fear it will hardly bee, the Rt Honble Compas demands being so high (and yet not unreasonable neither, in respect of their great charge of the Fleet, & former damages sustained) and their orders so positive to proceed upon the Warr if not granted, And wee can't see that our Vakeel at Court doth any thing to the purpose, hee onely spends our money there apace it seems, and that wee doubt will bee the onely issue of our buisinesse at last, which indeed will justify us the more in our proceedings to a Warr, in that wee have first tryed all fair means, to have a Redresse for our aggrieveances but instead of that have recēd nothing [but foul] and abusive language, to the dishonor of his Royall Majtie our King, and all his Subjects, wch will not now bee put up upon easy Termes, but how they will consult & manage that great affair in the Bay your Excellency and ourselves can onely now wait for their advices, and wee pray God to direct them for the best, and so remain.

Your Excellcys affectiont friends
& very humble Servants

WILLIAM GYFFORD.
ELIHU YALE.
THOMAS LUCAS.

[26TH] A Generall to Agent Charnock and a Generall to Capt. Nicholson both dated this day, approv'd & signed to bee sent by the Nathaniel, Coppyes whereof follow Vizt.

FORT ST GEORGE, 26TH AUGUST 1686.

TO THE RT WORPLL. JOB CHARNOCK ESQR
AGENT FOR THE RT HONBLE ENGLISH EAST INDIA
COMPAS AFFAIRS IN HUGLY.

Haveing wrote you so lately & largely by the Beaufort, dated the 12th Inst. unto which wee referr, wee have little more to add at present, onely cheifely to acquaint you, that wee have left our Garrison very thin of Souldiers to supply your occasions, and therefore doe desire you, (after the Chittagam buisines is over) to return us the sd Officers and Souldiers, (or as many of them as you can Spare, especially the marryed men whose familyes here will want them) leaveing that place Strongly fortifyed with about 200 peeces of Ordnance, mounted upon the Bastions, and well Supplyed with Rice and Paddy, Powder and Amunition of all Sorts, and a sufficient Garrison of men therein, which probably may bee supplyed with a good additionall number of Portuguez & Mesteezes partly from Hugly & other places of Bengall and partly of those [residents at] Chittagam, who will bee more ready to Serve us, then the Moors to whom they are so much enslaved.

If it should so fall out that you engage in a Warr with Bengall, wee know not well which way you can Supply us with Rice from thence, therefore wee desire you (because of our great want) to contrive some other way to supply us therewith, & wee thinke if you could spare some burdensom Vessell either of the Prize Shipps, or others (besides that ship you are to send with a present to the King, with some persons upon her to treat with him about that grand affair, who may bee assisted and directed by such persons as wee shall send from hence, if they shall happen to meet with one another) would doe well to send her to Arraccan with money sufficient to buy her Cargo of Rice, there, with order to bring it hither to the [*a word lost*] some Factors or others upon her to see that the money bee laid out well, and that shee bee speedily dispatchd to us, for here are nothing but signs of

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1686.*—— [26TH]

a very Severe famin, and the more Rice wee can gett from any part, the better, so that wee hope you will take more then ordinary care about it, and make what expedition you can therein.

If any of the Fleet wants repairs or Provisions there is extraordinary good Timbers at Negrais, and plenty of wild Hog and Deer, and very safe Harbours, of which wee have acquainted Captn Nicholson, So that if there bee occasion you may make use of that place.

Wee desire again to remind you, that you would not fail to give us speedy advice when ever you are come to any Resolution either of Warr or Peace, and as often as any thing occurrs in the great affair worthy our notice, and this being all that wee can thinke of, to recommend to your care at present, wee shall conclude there, & add what else offers by the next opportunity. So remain

Your affectiont friends

WILLIAM GYFFORD.
ELIHU YALE.
THOMAS LUCAS.

To CAPTN JOHN NICHOLSON
COMMANDR OF THE SHIP BEAUFORT.

FORT ST GEORGE, 26TH AUGUST 1686.

Wee hope these will find you Safe arrived in the Bay, and that the Rochester gott there sometime before you, that the Agent & Councill receiveing their full Instructions by her, may have come to some resolution either of Warr or Peace, with the Mogull, but least the Rochester should not have been arrived before you according to expectation, and that the Agent eta Councill of Hugly could not bee permitted to come down to you, nor send you the Rt Honble Compas Instructions to them, wee haveing received a Duplicate of the same by the Nathaniel doe now remitt them herewith to you (with three other necessary Papers, according to the List herewith) that you may the better know what their Honrs have directed in allmost all cases, leaveing it to you and your Councill of Officers to act thereby as necessity shall require, But we having given in your private Dispatch from ourselves dated the 16 Instant, such Instructions as wee thought most agreable to the Rt Honble Compas intentions in this expedition, wee doe referr cheifly to that, and remain

Your Affectionte friends

WILLIAM GYFFORD.
ELIHU YALE.
THOMS LUCAS.

One Robert Masfen, haveing been at Chittagam and produceing a Journall of a Voyage from thence towards Bengall, which may bee of use to Capt. Nicholson, a Coppy thereof was thought fitt to bee sent to him by the Nathaniel, with a Generall of this day date, Coppy whereof follows. Vizt. [28TH]

To CAPTN JOHN NICHOLSON
COMANDR OF SHIP BEAUFORT.

FORT ST. GEORGE, 28 AUGUST 1686.

Since the finishing and Sealing up of our last to you of the 26th Instant wee have gott a Coppy of Mr Masfen's Journall from Chittagam towards Bengall, which wee have thought convenient herewith to remitt you, and have had some further discourse with him, concerning Chittagam, which hee says is a bigger place then Hugly, and that the Citty & Fort of Chittagam lyes about 10 or 12 miles up a small River, at the mouth whereof Vizt. on each of the Points which makes the mouth of

[28TH.] ——*FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1686.*——

the River, there is a small Fortification with a few Gunns, and a little within the sd Points lyes 5 or 6 Ships, and [*a word lost*] or 80 boats of Warr of about 60 oars a peice, which after the ffreshes [are] over (the latter end of October) lye prepared for service for [*a word or two lost*] the Raccanners, and the men appointed for rowing, constantly attending the Boats, besides five or six hundred Portuguez & Musteez Soldiers and two or three thousand Moors for the Guard of the Boats Ships and Points.

And that great Ships may lye, without the Barr (in about 6 or 7 fad water) fair off the small River's mouth, so as to bee capable of disabling the ffortifications on the Points, and allso the Ships & Boats which lye within the Points, and that smaller ships of 200 Tuns may safely goe over the Barr, into the sd small River, up to the Fort & Citty of Chittagam (keeping on the Larboard side after they are over the Barr) & ride so near to them, as that Granadoes may bee easily cast into the ffort and Citty, And after a shipp is come fair before the Citty, if they proceed but a quarter of a Mile, and double a Point, they will come so near to the Nabob's home, as that they fire it from the Ships being within Muskett shott.

That the Citty may bee easily burnt in a dry time, by landing a few Men, the Homes being all built of Bamboes.

Allso, that skipper Michael (the Dutchman mentioned in the Title of his Journall) understands the place well, was there so abused that hee threatened revenge, has all along Served the English, and may bee heard of at Ballasore, where hee has lived.

That Seaven Europe men belonging to the Advice Pinke left them, and entred themselves into the service of the Nabob in Chittagam, & there continue, as hee has been informed by one Smith, who was one of the sd seaven and cleared (after a twelve moneth's stay there) by procurement of the Agent of Bengall, and is now at Pettypollee or Metchlepatam, whom wee will send down to you, if wee can by any means.

That of four Portuguez Captains lying at the Points, there is one Vinta Ferera, a great Rogue, and not to bee dealt with, but John Fernando (the Second Captain) a civill man to the English, of a very good Estate, & would bee glad to bee delivered from his present Subjection to the Moors, as hee has often declared to Mr Masfen, and since to Captain Baim

That the Forts, both at the Points and at the Citty are made of nothing but mudd walls, and there is about 60 Gunns, but most of them not mounted, and few that know how to use them. Their Souldiers being many of them Christians, no doubt
31ST. but some encouragement offered to them at the same time, when you first summon the Garrison, will bring them all over to your side, most being unwillingly stopd there, but after you have possession, it will not bee convenient to trust any of them in the Fort, but may receive pay, and serve for the out Guards.

You better know Mr Masfen, & how far you may depend upon his Relation then wee, hee haveing Sailed formerly with you, So wee leave it to you to make use thereof as you find convenient, and haveing nothing more to adde at present, Wee remain

Your affectionate friends

WILLIAM GYFFORD.
ELIHU YALE.
THOMAS LUCAS.

P.S.—Wee have found amongst our Stores two small Morter peices which are put up in two Cases—marked V & No. 22 and are on board, the Nathaniel, which may bee of very great use to you.

E.Y.
T.L.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1686.*—— [31st]

In persuance of the Rt Honble Compas orders in their Instructions dated 14th Janry 1685/6, concerning treating with the King of Arraccan for his assistance against Chittagam, It was thought fitt, that Mr Nathaniel Higginson, & Mr Thomas Yale doe proceed upon the Loyall Adventure (after her returne from the Southern Factories) to Arraccan, for the said purpose, who may manage that Treaty with the King about Chittagam (either alone, or jointly with those that may come from Bengall,) under the cover of procureing a grant of Negrais. And a General to the Agent of Bengall, to advise him hereof, was approved & Sign'd, to bee sent by the George. Coppy whereof follows Vizt.

FORT St GEORGE, 31st AUGt 1686.

To THE Rt WORPLL JOB CHARNOCK ESQR
AGENT FOR THE Rt HONBLE COMPAS AFFAIRS IN BENGALL &CA.

The King of Arraccan no doubt (as the Rt Honble Compa well observe) may bee very much assisting to you in the keeping of Chittagam, if you are once so successefull as to gett possession of it, as allso to plunder Dacca when ever you resolve upon it, & wee beleive hee will bee very ready to engage therein (if there bee occasion) for two Reasons, First, to bee revenged of his old Enemies, (which by his Strength alone hee hath not been of a long time able to doe). And then, for that the Rt Honble Compa have ordered you to offer him the halfe of the Plunder, About which they have allso ordered you to send a small Vessell thither, with their Honor's Letter and present, and some fitting persons to treat with him about the sd affairs, which pray fail not to doe being a buisines of so great import, & being wee are intended to make a Settlement at Negrais, wee are sending the ship Loyall Adventure thither with Mr Nathaniel Higginson (now one of our Councill) & Mr Thomas Yale upon her, to see it performed, & after that's done (upon the turne of the Monsoon) wee shall order them to goe to Arraccan, where if they find any persons there from you, that may informe them of the state of affairs in Bengall (if they have not treated before with the King) then they may consider together of both ours & your Instructions, & conclude upon what is best to bee propounded to him, but if your people have concluded it before, or that they think it not convenient to adde anything more (that they may gather from our Instructions) then Mr Higginson & Mr Yale are to treat with the King onely about granting us the Inheritance of Negrais, which wee understand belongs to him (tho' there are no Inhabitants upon it) to whom wee shall allso send our Letter & Present, And wee doe appoint Mr Higginson (according to the Rt Honble Compas Rules) to proceed any of those persons that shall bee sent from you, upon the buisines afores^{d} & Mr Thomas Yale to take place according to his Station which is, to bee next to those of your Councill, or Cheif of a Factory if any bee sent, And this being onely upon the particular occasion above expressed wee have nothing more to adde, So remain

Your affectionate friends

WILLIAM GYFFORD.
ELIHU YALE.
THOMAS LUCAS.

FORT St GEORGE 4TH [OCTOR.] 1686.

To THE HONBLE: COMITTEE OF SECRECY
IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE Rt HONBLE COMPA OF MERCHANTS
OF LONDON TRADEING INTO THE EAST INDIES.

May it please your Honrs.

Your Honrs haveing directed a Letter of the 14th January 1685 particularly to ourselves, whereof wee acknowledge the Receipt, wee shall now Submissively reply thereunto.

[4TH] ——*FORT ST. GEORGE, OCTOBER 1686.*——

The 2d Paragraph in the abovesd Letter was read to the rest of our Councill, & they were very well Satisfyed, that there might bee reasons sufficient for the present concealment of the Contents of the rest & accordingly our Consultations thereon were carryed on by ourselves alone, & allso Letters of Secrecy were written & directed onely to the Agent of Bengall himself, Coppies of all which wee now send for your Honrs peruseall.

Your Honrs enclosed Letter to the Agent & Councill of Bengall, wee did often read & well consider of, and have promoted the Designe therein mentioned as much as lay in our power by sending to their assistance in the Bay, both Men Armes & Provisions, & many other necessary Stores for such an Enterprize, all intended us being left behind. The Ship Nathaniel had about 40 of her Souldiers dyed in the Voyage, but wee sent upon Severall Ships & Sloops from hence 220 Men Viz^{t} English Dutch eta 39. Portuguez 115. Lascars 54. Armorers eta 12.

Captn Nicholson (of whom wee have the like opinion as your Honrs) did take his place in our Councill according to your Order, & hee will doe the same in the Bay.

The Severall ships designed into the Bay, with what sloops wee had here, were all dispatch'd thither, as soon as possibly wee could, considering their late arriveall (the 7th of July) and the time spent (our Mucquaws being so few, & no more to bee had) in unladeing them, & landing the Souldiers, & the great Preparation wee were to make in diverse respects, as is required in a design of that nature.

There was no occasion of any Countrey Vessells, your Honrs haveing Ships & Sloops enough of your own, to carry down all the Souldiers wee could gett, otherwise, if wee had had any of our own here, (& there had been occasion) wee should readily have employed them in your Honrs Service.

Att present wee are very bare of men in this Garrison, and therefore according to your Honrs order (besides the necessity thereof) wee have wrote to have So many of our Soldiers returned as they can spare.

All our Soldiers, (So much as the Portugueez at last) went upon this Expedition with a great deal of alacrity & promiseing courage, after they had heard the good encouragement your Honrs ordered us to give them at their going off, which was declared to them at large, when they all joyfully express'd their thankfullnes to your Honrs by waveing their Hatts, & crying, God blesse the King & the Rt Honble Compa.

Your Honrs will find by our Letters to the Agent in the Bay, that all your Orders have been advised of. But Mr Fowles is dead att Priamand, of whom wee have a great losse (who was ordered to come hither again if hee had lived) & would have been an excellent man to have served your Honrs upon this occasion in the Bay.

Mr Thomas Wavell has taken his place in our Councill according to your Honrs order & at present is Paymaster Generall, And your Honrs haveing ordered in your Instructions to the Agent eta Councill in the Bay, that Mr Nathaniel Higginson should come up from thence to bee of our Councill here (who being allready with us) hee has taken his place in Councill according to sd Orders, & wee intend him to doe your Honrs some particular Service Some where or other abroad, & when that is effected, to returne to us again to settle here.

Wee are thinkeing to Send a Ship to Arraccan with some of our Councill eta upon her, to treat with that King about giveing us the Inheritance of Negrais, & allso to join with those they may send from Bengall in the Treaty with him about Chittagam, & when wee proceed in it, shall send him a Present accordingly.

Concerning Jahore wee have discoursed Captn Nicholson, & Mr Styleman, & they neither of them give any incouragement to settle or fortify there, but being wee understand your Honrs designe of haveing some proper place for the future Security of the China and Japan Trade (where the China Junks might come to us Safely, without passing by Batavia or Malacca) wee shall have it in our thought & make further enquiry where there may bee such a convenient place.

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, OCTOBER 1686.*——— [4TH]

Wee have delivered to Capt. Nicholson a Book of military Discipline, & Martiall Law now in use in his Majs Army, & Coppy of our Rules & Orders in this Garrison, & the Rates & manner of our collecting our Customs here.

Agent Beard (as your Honrs have long Since been advised) is dead, and now the Cheif management of that grand affair in the Bay, will lye upon Agent Charnock, to whom wee have given the best direccons wee can, both in generall & particular, that hee may quitt himself well in that great Imploy, to which the Allmighty give a blessing, that those wicked Governors in the Bay may bee taught better things, then to abuse & affront us so as they have done, besides their intolerable oppression & Extortion for which wee are throughly convinc't the Warr, which may by this time bee begun with them, is very just and Lawfull, and wee are in great Expectation to hear from thence, after Capt. Nicholson shall arrive there, that wee may judge how things are like to goe. But by what wee have allready received, wee perceive they are worse and worse, & they despair of makeing any Investment this year.

The President not haveing his health well in this Countrey (which hee had often intimated to severall particular friends to apply themselves to your Honrs that hee might have leave to come home) did intend to have imbarqued upon the Kempthorne (especially considering hee had allso humbly addressd himself to your Honrs about it, by the Emoy Merchant, which hee was in hopes might have been arrived before all the ships bound for the Fort this year were come forth, and that hee might by them (which as yet are not arrived,) have heard from your Honrs) but now since your Honrs have been pleased to honor him so far, as to signify to him your desires for his continuance, hee esteems himself greatly obliged thereby, & in duty bound to stay till hee receive an answer from your Honrs to his afores[d] addresses wherein hee hopes your Honrs (in favor to him, after his so long Service & want of health) may have granted his Request, in the meane time hee assures your Honrs to continue his faithfull endeavors to doe you the best Service hee can.

Concerning the raiseing your Honrs Customs wee have allready wrote the Rt Honble Governr & Compa what needfull therein as allso in answer to their Honrs Generall of the 17th June 1685 to the Generall & Councill at Surat.

The Dutch wee understand are allso like to quarrell with the Bengallers, but wee think tis impossible for them to know anything concerning your Honrs particular designe upon Chittagam in regard it has been kept so private here, & such care taken, that it bee so managed in the Bay not to bee discovered in the least, till they proceed to action, or else to bee sure the Dutch will aim at the same mark on purpose to prevent us, But this being thought by us and often discoursed of to Capt. Nicholson before hee went, wee hope hee will take great care in this particular.

Wee hear allso, that the Danes have renewed their old quarrell with Bengall, so that whether so many of us breaking out with them at once (& every one upon acco[t] of their distinct Interests) may bee better or worse for us, wee leave to your Honrs to judge but wee hope it may not bee the worse, there being places enough (by so many inletts into their Countrey) for each of us to revenge our Selves upon, and fortify, as wee beleive the Dutch intend whenever they begin to quarrel.

The French (haveing as yet no ground of Quarrel) are endeavouring to have a Settlement in Bengall, but whether the disturbances that our Selves and the Dutch are like to give them there, may impede the afores[d] proceedings of the French, or give them an opportunity to obtain the better Termes, wee know not, but time will shew it, & wee can say no more to this affair, till wee hear from the Bay again, So Subscribe our Selves

Honorble Srs
Your Honrs most Obedient
& faithfull Servants

WILLIAM GYFFORD.
ELIHU YALE.
THOMAS LUCAS.

Coppy of these Consultations et[a] sent with the preceeding Generall by the Kempthorne.

[23RD] ——*FORT ST. GEORGE, OCTOBER 1686.*——

FORT ST GEORGE, 23TH OCTOBR 1686.

TO HIS EXCELLCY SR JOHN CHILD BARONT
GENERALL & PRESIDENT OF SURATT &CA.

Wee haveing sent the Madras Frigatt (as in our Generall to your Excellcy & Councill is advised) with Mr Thomas Yale &ca upon hir to your Coast to receive & dispose of the freight Goods upon hir & to prosecute the Rt Honble Compas orders (in case there bee occasion) against the Surat Ships Bengallers & Siamme[rs]. Wee desire your Excellcy to give orders to all places on sd Coast, where our people are to bee assistant to him, in that, as well as in the disposeall of the Cargo if there bee occasion, as allso for the procury of Grain & Arrac, for the Rt Honble Compas returnes, which is our cheif design, wee being in great necessity thereof for the Garrison, & if your Interest could furnish us with Rice, it would bee a most acceptable kindnesse, & yield great profitt, being under the miseries of a sore famine, through out the Countrey, hundreds starveing each day. Wee are

Your Excellcy affectt friends
& very humble servants

WILLIAM GYFFORD.
ELIHU YALE.
THOMAS LUCAS.

ATT A CONSULTATION

Present

WILLIAM GYFFORD ESQR PRESIDENT & GOVERNR
MR ELIHU YALE MR THOMAS LUCAS.

NOVEMBER MONDAY 22TH

Ordered, that the Generall from the Honble Committee of Secrecy dated the 14th January 1685/6 ♆ the Beaufort, directed to us, and [such] Consultations & Letters to Rt Honble Compa Bengall Surat etc., relating to the Bengall Expedition, bee now communicated to the Councill & bee entred in the Public Registers, there being no occasion for further privacy.

WILLIAM GYFFORD.
ELIHU YALE.
THO: LUCAS.

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